



# St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter

## Friday 8th November



It is lovely to have the children back after the half term holidays. It was an exciting start, with a focus for everyone on Guy Fawkes as so many of our children are involved in the marking of this anniversary. We also started the Rock Steady music sessions for those signed up. I can already see rock musicians in the making! Next Friday we are holding a "St Mary's Got Talent" in school so we are looking forward to seeing our children display their skills and talents next week. "Choosing Respect" is our theme for next week as well, with an invitation to wear odd socks on Tuesday 12th. I hope you have a wonderful weekend

### School Updates

Please can we remind you that vehicles dropping off and picking up in the morning, must not at any point be parked on the double yellow lines, this is for the safety of our children.

Please do look at upcoming events table there are lots of exciting Christmas events ahead of us!

Our GIFT team will be selling poppies this week. Suggested donation of £1 for the slap bands or 50p for any other item in the box.

Our GIFT team have been selling poppies this week and have done a grand job raising money for the Royal British Legion! Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Poppy Appeal.



## Anning

We have had a great first week back this half term.

We have been learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. We have been working on our oracy skills by taking on the roles of James I and Guy Fawkes to explore and debate this historical event from both viewpoints.

We have been learning about plants in science and sharing what we know about how they grow from seeds and bulbs. We planted lots of bulbs on Laudato Si day and we know we will have to wait a while before they grow into beautiful flowers.

## Eco Schools

November is Cut Your Carbon month! Eco-Schools is challenging young people across the UK to take action on their carbon footprint. Every child from St Mary's will receive a challenge tick list to complete in November.

## Cut Your Carbon

Before half term we sent home a 'Cut Your Carbon' challenge sheet for you to complete at home. As a school community, we have signed up to this fantastic eco challenge this month and it would be great if as many families could take part. Please attach your checklist to the fridge at home and let us know how many of these challenges you have been able to complete in the month of November. Thank you so much for your support.

## HelpAndKindness

Jon Sloper talked to the whole school on Laudato Si day about a wonderful local scheme that supports people in need of help in our community, it is called HelpAndKindness. There are many ways you can offer support, if you, or someone you know would like to volunteer to help those in need in our local community, please call 01305 59 59 58 to find out more. Thank you.



#HelpAndKindness  
Find Help - Give Help  
Work Together

### Local activities and services

Emergency and affordable food  
Cost of living support  
Volunteering opportunities

### Help at home and in the community



Everyone needs a little  
Help And Kindness

hello@helpandkindness.co.uk  
**01305 59 59 58**  
www.HelpAndKindness.co.uk

## Competitions

### Rotary Young Photographer Competition THEME – ‘WONDERFUL WATER’

Our children have been invited to take part in a Rotary Young Photographer Competition. The competition aims to encourage young people to:

- experiment with photography
- use digital and/or traditional methods of photography
- demonstrate interpretation of the topic
- express personal ideas through the medium of photography

Task and rules: To produce one photograph based upon the theme, ‘Wonderful Water’. Mobile Phones or cameras may be used. Each entrant MUST provide a brief sentence describing the relationship of the artwork to the theme. This can be submitted alongside the photograph. The name and age of the child must be recorded with the photograph. The photograph must be submitted via Digital Format and be at least 1500 pixel in size on the longest length. The entries and supporting information sent electronically MUST NOT EXCEED 15Mb per email sent. Please Note: Photographs which incorporate images of people under 18 years or vulnerable adults must be accompanied by consent forms for the use of those photographic images. Please submit your entry to the school office by **Wednesday 8th December 2024**

### Rotary Young Writer Competition THEME – ‘WONDERFUL WATER’

Our children have been invited to take part in a Rotary Young Writer Competition. The competition aims to encourage young people to:

- be creative
- use their writing skills
- write with imagination and creativity

Task and rules: To produce a handwritten or typed story in prose or poem entitled ‘Wonderful Water’. The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, as long as the piece relates to the theme and all entries must be legible. We are looking for original pieces, not copies, which match the theme of the competition. Competitors must not use any apps which produce any part of their submission, if detected the entry will be disqualified. Prose entries should be up to a maximum 550 words. Poetry entries should be up to a maximum of 40 lines. Entries that exceed these maximum numbers will be disqualified. No pictures and/or drawings are to be part of the entry.

Judges will consider: Imagination relative to the subject, the ability to engage interest, the ability to be consistent in the power of argument, relevance to the Theme. Please submit your entry to the school office by **Wednesday 8th December 2024 with the name and age of your child on the back.**



**Thank you**

Thank you for all the generous donations on our Laudato Si day, they have been received by the Dorchester Baptist Church Food Bank and will be very warmly received by those who are in need.



Thank you to our PTFA who have kindly donated A book to each of our classes, The children are really looking forward to reading these.



## Upcoming Events

Year Group	Event	Date
Whole School	Eco Schools - Cut your Carbon Month	November
Anning	Dorset Council Remembrance Service County Hall	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Odd Socks Day-Anti Bullying week	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Children in Need and fundraiser for Catholic Children's Society- <b>Non Uniform</b> –voluntary donation £1  St Mary's got Talent -3 children selected per class-please encourage children to practice at home.	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	School Photographs	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Scholastic book event	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Mass –School Hall 9.10-All families Welcome	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Bling your Bike to School	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	"Meet the Donkey" –PTFA event	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Whole School	Christmas Story Night. 5-6pm	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	PTFA Christmas Shop	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	Carol Service -6pm	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	Nativity 2pm/6pm	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	Nativity 2pm/6pm	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December
Iceni	Dance Performance –Thomas Hardy School  3.45-6.30- Further info on google classroom to follow.	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	Christmas Meal – Book via Local Food Links	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	School closes for Christmas Holidays	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Holiday		
Whole School	Return to school	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January

Have a good weekend. *P.Fearn*